(c) what is the procedure adopted in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) The Government has not debarred the Income Tax payers from the purview of the Public Distribution System (PDS) for supply of foodgrains, edible oils and kerosene. The Government of India have decided to exclude Income Tax Assesses and their family members from the purview of PDS sugar from July, 2000 onwards. Accordingly pending finalisation of the list of income tax assesses and their family members with "the help of income tax authorities, ad-hoc reduction in the monthly levy sugar quota of States/UTs has been made.

The State Governments have been advised to obtain a simple declaration from the ration-card holders as to whether or not he/she and his/her family members is/are income tax assesses. Such declaration has a provision that in the event the declaration made is found, on verification, to be false, the cardholder is liable for concellation of his/her card or such other penalty as the State Government may decide to impose.

Stock of Sugar in Karnataka

3319. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the stock of sugar mills and also with the Government of Karnataka;

(b) what is the amount due to growers/farmers from sugar mills in Karnataka State;

(c) whether the sugar mills are in a position to make payment immediately; and

(d) if not, what action is proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Sugar stocks are held by the factories and only as per the allotment orders issued by the Central Government, the specified quantities are sold/delivered by the factories. As on 22.7.2000, the stock of sugar with the sugar mills in Karnataka State as reported by the sugar mills was 1**1.92** lakh tonnes.

(b) Based on the information received from the State Government, as on 30.6.2000, the sugar mills in Karnataka were to pay Rs. 107 crores to farmers/ growers as cane price dues.

(c) and (d) The sugar mills are facing problem in making immediate payment of the cane price to the growers on account of excess production of sugarcane and sugar during the season 1999-2000, non availability of higher bank credit over the stocks held by them, heavy interest cost, heavy carry-over stock, etc. However, the mills are making efforts to make the payment to the growers to ease out difficulties of the farmers by way of export of sugar, additional bank credit through Government guarantees, payment of dues in instalments.

Central Government have taken following measures to improve the financial position of the sugar factories to enable them to make cane price dues of the farmers:-

(i) Reduced the levy obligation of the sugar factories from 40% to 30% with effect from 01.01.2000.

(ii) Restricted the inflow of imported sugar in the country by raising the custom duty to 60% with effect from 09.02.2000.

(iii) Advance releases of freesale sugar are being made to needy sugar factories.

(iv) Allowed export of 10 lakh tonnes of sugar.

(v) Judicious releases of freesale sugar quotas in order to maintain reasonable level of sugar prices in the open market.

Production of sugar in Karnataka

3320. SHRI H.K.JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total production of Sugar in Karnataka during current year;

(b) the existing stock of sugar with Sugar Mills and State Government;

(c) whether the Karnataka has asked the Central Government for lifting of sugar; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) As on 22-7-2000, the total production of sugar during the current 1999-2000 sugar season (October-September) in Karnataka is estimated at 14.93 lakh tonnes. Sugar stocks are held by the sugar mills and only as per the allotment order issued by the Central Government, the specified quantities are sold and delivered by the sugar mills. As on 22-7-2000, the stocks of sugar with Karnataka mills, as reported by them were 11.92 lakh tonnes.